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LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following statement by the Presidency of the European Union on Burundi: Arusha peace process, issued on 19 March 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Burundi: Arusha peace process, issued on 19 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the continuing talks within the Arusha peace process, intended to find a peaceful solution to the conflict within Burundi. The European Union considers this process an essential option for reaching agreement. It has taken note of the resolve of the Government of Burundi, declared on several occasions, to conclude negotiations successfully in 1999. The European Union encourages all parties to contribute constructively to this goal and stresses that agreement must be based on their willingness to accept compromise.

Regional States, by suspending their embargo against Burundi in January 1999, signalled their support for the talks.

Nevertheless, the European Union is deeply concerned about reports of continuing violence by rebel groups and the security forces, causing numerous civilian victims. It appeals urgently to both sides to cease their acts of violence immediately.

Several European Union member States and the European Commission are providing financial support to the peace process. After nine months of negotiations, the European Union urges the parties to organize the talks in a way that will help to achieve the desired result as soon as possible. On such a basis, the European Union member States and the European Commission are willing to consider favourably further financial support and appeal to other donors to act likewise.

The European Union is providing substantial support to Burundi. In response to positive political steps and in order to promote development in Burundi, the European Union has expressed its willingness to provide assistance, in a more long-term manner, to socio-economic rehabilitation and reconstruction. The European Union emphasizes that such support is linked to a successful pursuance and accomplishment of the peace process.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.